

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 15th July 1876.

WE give, *in extenso*, the following article from the *Sáptábhik Samáchar*, of the 27th June, entitled "Occupancy tenants":— Government conferred the right of occupancy on the tenantry of Bengal in 1859. This measure, however, greatly dissatisfied the zemindars, who have ever since constantly endeavoured to defeat its object, and have for this purpose continually harassed the ryots by enhancing the rents and instituting suits for arrears of their dues. Harassed and wearied by their intrigues and extortions, not a few tenants have altogether given up their holdings, and agriculture also at the same time. We have heard of zemindars who are willing to take a low rate of rent from a tenant-at-will; but who, when one stands upon his occupancy right, would on no account be content, until they had realized rents at a rate far higher than the pergunnah rate. The increasing oppressions of the zemindars ultimately led to an outbreak of riots in some places. The tenants rebelled, for the oppressions were beyond endurance. Sir George Campbell left for England before he could devise any remedial measures. Sir Richard's first year of administration was spent in suppressing the famine; but a little leisure on his hands has now enabled him to suggest a means of establishing peace between the landlords and tenants; and his views have been put forth in a Minute on the substantive law for the determination of rents. He has therein proposed an abatement of 20 per cent., in favor of the occupancy tenants, on the rents of tenants-at-will. His Honor is also for making a certain allowance to the occupancy tenant, for the value of the improvements he may have made in the land at his own expense and labor; and an abatement of rent in proportion to the length of his occupancy. We have, however, grave doubts as to whether, should this measure become law, it would put an end to the lamented disputes; the landlords not being at all pleased with the idea of occupancy ryots paying a lower rate of rent than the tenants-at-will. The *Hindu Patriot*, the mouth-piece of the landholding class, has adduced an argument against the proposal, which we confess has really astonished us. According to this paper, the proposed abatement of the rent rate in favor of the occupancy tenants will, in forty or fifty years, make the prevailing rate of rent considerably less than the revenue paid per beegha by the zemindars. But why should it be so, we ask? Sir Richard Temple does not permanently fix the rent of the tenant-at-will. Does His Honor say that the zemindars should henceforth be under an obligation permanently to lease out land at a fixed rent? So far as we have understood the Minute, we see that, forty years hence, a tenant, whose occupancy status will have been of forty years' standing, shall have to pay a third of the rent at which a tenant-at-will may then

SAPTÁBHİK SAMÁCHAR,
June 27th, 1876.

agree to take land. Now, suppose the zemindar lets out a piece of land to a non-occupancy ryot at Rs. 5 a beegha, and that forty years hence the progress of commerce and the consequent rise in the value of produce raises the rent of this same land to Rs. 12. Now, an occupancy ryot of forty years' standing will be required to pay a third of this sum as his rent for the same land, *i.e.* Rs. 4, which is equal to an abatement of 20 per cent. of the present rate—an abatement which is, in all circumstances, proposed to be conceded to the occupancy in comparison with the non-occupancy ryots. The zemindars must, doubtless, feel, though they be not willing to acknowledge, the greater benefit received from occupancy in comparison with non-occupancy ryots. The lands which are leased out to tenants-at-will occasionally remain uncultivated, owing to the tenants absconding, or being unable to pay, in cases of drought or excessive rainfall. But not so the occupancy ryots, who pay regularly and without excuse under all circumstances. The zemindars must admit that, in the payment of the Government revenue, they are greatly aided by these tenants; though it is to be exceedingly regretted that, keeping a constant eye on present profits, they oppress them the most.

The *Hindu Patriot* again observes, should the scheme become law, there would be a large increase in the number of false suits and forged documents. We also admit this; but ask, who are the most accustomed, at the present time, to resort to these wicked expedients? It is not unknown that some of the most distinguished zemindars have been convicted of forgery and punished for it. We, therefore, advise the landlords, if they really desire their own good, to cultivate good feelings with the occupancy tenants; for oppression on these will, in the long run, make them the greatest sufferers.

SAPTANIK SAMACHAR,
July 4th, 1876.

2. Adverting to the case of Baboo Lál Chánd Chowdhuri and Mr. Kirkwood, of Chittagong, the *Sáptáhiik Samáchar*, of the 4th July, writes that the Lieutenant-Governor has now been fully informed of the unjust and most oppressive acts of the latter, and has called for all the papers concerning the case. His Honor also intends soon to visit Chittagong; and strong hopes are entertained, on this occasion, that due punishment will be inflicted on Mr. Kirkwood. Unless such an inhuman, heartless person were condignly punished, there would be no advantage to society, and the glory of the English name would be indelibly tarnished. We beg to ask the Lieutenant-Governor, and the whole English nation, whether it is reasonable to suppose that, because we are a conquered race, we are utterly devoid of feeling, or that there is no injustice in committing oppressions on us? We see it but too plainly that, if men like Mr. Kirkwood and Mr. Moseley do not receive adequate punishment, there will certainly rise up many more of such wicked and oppressive tyrants, and India will be speedily brought to ruin. How long shall we continue to suffer such terrible oppressions? Sir Richard Temple should seek to prevent this; and Lord Lytton should look on us with an eye of compassion. We, however, learn that Mr. Kirkwood is about to apply for leave; but if this be now granted, it will lead to the inference that an oppressive man has been willingly let go unpunished; that encouragement has been given to misrule and oppression; that no punishment has been imposed on a person for an offence which was more serious than what led to the dismissal of Baboo Surendro Nath Banerjee; and that there is no hope of happiness and comfort for the natives.

SAPTANIK SAMACHAR.

3. Writing on the subject of the Mahesh Car, the same paper says that Mr. Haggard, the Joint-Magistrate, and Sir William Herschel, the

Magistrate of the Hooghly district, have conjointly prevented Baboo Bishwambhar Basu, the proprietor of the Car, from having it drawn this year. The writer then remarks that we have long since lost our liberty. We have no right to our own money; no hand in the administration of justice; and no voice in the legislature of our own country. Still we would not take all this so much to heart, seeing that we enjoy comparative peace and rest under the British Government, for which reason we always wish its prosperity. But we do feel extremely unhappy when we find any unjust treatment shown towards us by our rulers, who are at the present time much given to oppression. Even this we could bear; but we confess we cannot endure any unjust interference with our religion. We have lost almost everything—our glory and our liberty: but one thing was still left us, the free exercise of our religious rites; and if obstacles be now thrown into their way, as has lately been done in connection with the Mahesh Car festival, our existence as Hindoos is no longer desirable. We cry loudly when we feel anything most intolerable; but who is there that will listen to our cries and complaints?

4. Adverting to the case of Baboo Lál Chánd Chowdhuri, of Chittagong, the *Suhrid*, of the 4th July, writes the following:—It is rumoured that Sir Richard Temple and the High Court have called for the papers in connection with the case. If Mr. Kirkwood be really found guilty and duly punished by the Lieutenant-Governor, our white-skinned European oppressors will be more careful in future.

SUHRID,
July 4th, 1876.

5. In the course of a very long article, the same paper writes that, with the single exception of Mr. Geddes, who wrote in the *Calcutta Review*, some years ago, about the decline and poverty of India, none has hitherto been anxious to make any inquiry into the subject. According to that writer, there is no possibility of a country being really prosperous, unless the condition of its peasantry be improved; and India is poor, because of the extremely miserable condition of the native peasantry. This is the truth exactly. The position of the rural classes in this country is far from enviable; and this is, no doubt, owing to the unsoundness of the administration at the present time. No encouragement is given to the improvement of their circumstances; and, as a sad consequence, we see our country gradually declining and becoming impoverished.

SUHRID.

6. In an article headed, the Civil Court Ameens, the *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 5th July, writes the following:—The Lieutenant-Governor has particularly directed his attention to this office, and has resolved to abolish it, on account of the great expense of maintaining it for the last two years. His Honor has also expressed a wish to appoint to the vacant places the briefless pleaders, whose daily remuneration might then be at from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20, according to the distance they might be required to travel. The ameen under the new system would have a surveyor under him, whose daily fee will also be Rs. 3. This sum, together with the travelling allowance, is to be charged on the litigants. If this view of the Lieutenant-Governor be carried into practice, the Government indeed would not suffer loss on this score; but it would entail ruin on the suitors: for, suppose a person, who resides in a sub-division, at some distance from the head-quarters of a district, institutes a suit for Rs. 20, relating to boundaries, and that it takes some five days to arrive at the disputed ground for the purpose of making inquiry, the fees of the ameen and the surveyor, calculated at the lowest rate, would not be less than Rs. 65; and, moreover, if they be required to stay there for two days, Rs. 26 will be added in excess of the sum that must be paid for their

HINDU RANJIKA,
July 5th, 1876.

return expenses. Now, this heavy sum charged on the litigants would surely ruin them; and they would even prefer relinquishing their rights to what is their own, for fear of being entangled in litigation. If the Government suffer any loss in retaining the present civil court ameen, the better course would be to pay him under the proposed system, as his daily remuneration, the sum of Rs. 3, which is demanded every day from a suitor on account of ameen's fee.

BHARAT MIHIR,
July 6th, 1876.

7. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 6th July, writes the following:—In one of our former issues a most lamentable fact was referred to in a letter from our Chittagong correspondent. Some ryots of the locality went together to a field to construct a *bund* or embankment there, and Mr. Webster and his associate, Mr. Macdonald, resorted to the place with a coolie to break it down. Owing to this, a quarrel ensued between the two parties; and the *sahibs*, having lost their temper, fired a pistol on the opposite party, which resulted in the death of one of them. In the trial which followed, the witnesses for the deceased said that Mr. Webster had killed him; while the latter deposed to the fact that his companion, Mr. Macdonald, had done the deed. The court imposed a fine on the defendants; and the ryots were sentenced to six months' imprisonment for giving false evidence, which was considered to have been sufficiently established by the testimony of Mr Webster. Now, to tell this sad tale our pen fails. Many say that it is the great fault of the native press that it unjustly censures the English; but if we may not offer our observations on such acts of oppression and injustice, then what is the use of continuing in our important positions as Editors? However, there has been great excitement in Chittagong in connection with this affair, and Government should therefore attend to it and do justice.

BHARAT MIHIR.

8. In a very long article headed, "The means of communication by water" the same paper writes:—We are not against the policy of extending railway lines, but beg to say that internal trade is more conveniently carried on by means of canals than by railway trains. We are happy to find that the Government of Bengal has lately directed its attention to the construction of canals in the country. It is almost unnecessary to say that this will be productive of immense good to Bengal; for it will not only facilitate commerce, but will also do much towards encouraging and improving the agriculture of the country. On the contrary, if railways were made, the various bridges and embankments which should be constructed, would greatly obstruct the natural water-courses of the country during the rainy season. Such inconveniences, however, would not result from the cutting of canals.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 6th, 1876.

9. In its opening article, headed Mutiny in Jails, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, of the 6th July, writes that lately, the prisoners of the Central Jail at Lucknow rose against the Superintendent, owing to his refusal to provide them with separate drinking vessels, they being men of different castes. Thus, wherever such a rising occurs, there is some such unnatural and imprudent ruling of the jail authorities always found at the root of it; and some unjust and hard punishment is found to have been laid on the prisoners which is felt by them as utterly unbearable. In fact, our rulers are daily making the jail rules increasingly hard and oppressive. Though we are afraid and extremely aggrieved at seeing our country ruined by the present pernicious system of legislation and administration, as also by the cruel severity of the Penal Code, yet no feeling of desperation thereby produced would at all approach to what we feel, when we think of the unbearable tyranny exercised by the jail officers on the prisoners. This

tyranny not only wounds the soft hearts of the natives; but even hard-hearted Europeans, who possess uncommon mental and bodily vigour, are extremely affected by it. Most of the latter, who have visited the jails in this country, testify with sadness to the utterly miserable condition of the unfortunate prisoners. Even Sir George Campbell who, by the Criminal Procedure Code, has brought us to the lowest stage of degradation, and during whose severe administration the hard toil and labor, and consequently the deaths, of the prisoners increased many more times than before, has lately confessed that the prisoners in this country do not deserve that severe punishment which is not unfrequently laid upon them. Dr. Mouat, who was for a long time in India in charge of the jails, at last came to the conclusion that the more severely the prisoners were treated, the greater evils would result; and for this reason he mitigated to a great extent the rigor of their treatment. Had he been in this country up to this time, the severity exercised in the jails would surely have been much lessened. Last year, Sir Richard Temple indirectly acknowledged that no practical benefit accrued to the prisoners from the hard labor imposed on them; it only increased the number of deaths. Thus, though almost all with one voice testify to the evil consequences of severity in the exercise of jail discipline, yet it is strange to say that our rulers are daily endeavouring to increase rather than diminish it. Some of our able contemporaries, for instance the *Soma Prakásh*, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, the *Dacca Prakásh*, &c., join us in crying against this pernicious practice; and no matter whether our efforts meet with success, or not, we are at least resolved not to forsake them.

10. Adverting to the subject of the Mahesh Car, the same paper remarks that, owing to the whim of a Magistrate, who is determined to carry out his measures by all means, a well-known festival of long standing has been interrupted this year. The Magistrate, who is man of a different race and of a different faith, cannot fully understand the nature of the wounds he has given to the religious feelings of the natives.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
July 6th, 1876.

11. A correspondent, writing to the same paper, directs the attention of the Post Master General of Bengal to the importance of opening a branch post office in Mottagram, in Manickgunge, and says that the measure will be beneficial in two ways—(1) it will remove the inconveniences of the inhabitants of the said locality arising from the confusion of their letters, (2) Government will derive much profit.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

12. In a letter to the same paper, we find some of the passed students at the Native Civil Service Examination, complaining (1) that they do not find any employment, (2) that outsiders are employed by the Government as Deputy Magistrates in utter disregard of their rights, and (3) that while, from the common *chaprassi* to the highest Government officials, everybody receives travelling allowance, the unfortunate *Canoongoe* is denied this privilege.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

13. In an article headed, the "Europeans in Chittagong," the *Pratikár*, of the 7th July, writes that Chittagong has now become the scene of many cruel and oppressive acts. Mr. Kirkwood, the Magistrate, has lately insulted and subjected Baboo Lál Chánd Chowdhuri, a rich zemindar of the locality, to various difficulties; and has also committed oppression on the widow of a respectable zemindar of the place and on her late adopted son. Mr. Webster, a tea-planter, and Mr. Macdonald have killed a person, owing to the resistance they met with from some of the tenants of the said locality, in having endeavoured to break down a *bund* or embankment constructed by them. But by the decision of the court, Mr. Webster and Mr. Macdonald have been

PRATIKAR,
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only fined, and the ryots have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment, for giving, as it has been supposed, false evidence against Mr. Webster. This case was at first in the file of Mr. Sarson, the Deputy Magistrate; but Mr. Kirkwood transferred it to the file of Mr. Veasey, who has tried it and has given this fine decision on it. Mr. Rattray, the District Police Superintendent, has incurred the displeasure of Mr. Kirkwood, owing to the great diligence he exhibited in arresting Mr. Webster. This fact proves that the Magistrate would have preferred the defendants escaping any serious difficulties; so that Mr. Kirkwood is at the source of all the injustice and oppression committed on the inhabitants of Chittagong. It is rumoured that the Lieutenant-Governor will soon come back from Darjeeling and visit Chittagong, for the purpose of making particular inquiry into the case of Baboo Lál Chánd Chowdhuri. But we fear, lest His Honor, in seeking to please both parties, will give satisfaction to neither, as has lately been done in connection with the case of the Ghosal family and the Calcutta Police. We hear that Mr. Kirkwood has applied for leave; wherefore we earnestly pray Sir Richard Temple not to grant it before he has decided his case.

PRATIKAR,
July 7th, 1876.

14. In one of its editorial columns, the same paper writes that, last year great losses were suffered by the ryots, owing to the demolition of the *bunds* in several places by the torrent of water; and that there is a small *bund* below Furesdanga, by the destruction of which considerable loss was suffered last year by the inhabitants of Cossim Bazar and of the neighbouring villages. The writer directs the attention of the local Magistrate to the subject, and asks him to adopt proper measures now, so that it may not yield this year also to the violence of the stream, and thereby occasion immense loss and inconvenience to the inhabitants.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
July 8th, 1876.

15. Adverting to the subject of the Mahesh Car, the *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 8th July, writes in the same strain as other articles on the subject already noticed.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

16. In an article headed the Indian Revenue, the same paper writes:—The natives of Bengal will never forget the oppressions to which they were subjected when Sir George Campbell was at the head of affairs. The road cess and the Criminal Procedure Code, are the clearest illustrations of this. He set his hands to many other things; but fortunately could not succeed in them, owing to the want of sympathy on the part of Lord Northbrook. At last he resigned office and returned to England. Now he has entered the British House of Parliament, where he has lately made a speech on Indian Finance, the present state of which, he says, is not at all satisfactory. In his opinion there ought to be stored in the Indian treasury four or five crores of rupees every year; otherwise, the Government will be at a loss at times of emergency. To serve this purpose, he suggests the re-introduction of the income tax which, he says, will not be oppressive to the people. But we have one hope left to us, namely, that this his most pernicious proposal will not be carried into effect; for in the House of Parliament no one heeds his absurd reasonings.

HINDU HITOISHINI.

17. In the course of a very long article headed the oppression of Mr. Kirkwood, of Chittagong, the same paper observes that some high English officials in this country do at present commit acts which none but he, whose mind becomes suddenly distracted, is bold enough to do; and the perfect indifference of our Government to these acts encourages terrible oppression and injustice in different places. It is true that many of these acts are never brought to the notice of Government; but inattention to those which are brought before them, causes deep regret in the minds of the

people. Some of the Magistrates, glad to exhibit the power of their elevated positions, commit unspeakable oppression on particular individuals. Lately, what injustice and oppression has not Mr. Kirkwood, the Magistrate of Chittagong, committed on Baboo Lál Chánd Chowdhuri, a member of the local municipality; and on the widow of a rich zemindar of the place, and also on her late adopted son? The Government has now come fully to know his acts; but we cannot at present say what steps will be adopted against him.

18. In another article headed, The Civil Court Ameens, the same paper writes, that the Lieutenant-Governor has resolved to abolish the office, and to appoint briefless pleaders in their places on a daily remuneration of from ten to twenty rupees, which sum will be charged on the litigants. But this will surely be very oppressive to the latter. We admit that the ameens at present attached to the civil courts are very much given to corruption and bribery, and consequently that they ought to be at once dismissed, and their vacant places occupied by more qualified and upright men: still we wish that the new arrangement should be made with due consideration of the distressed circumstances of the suitors; otherwise, nobody will pray for an inquiry in the mofussil.

HINDU HITOSHINI,
July 8th, 1876.

19. In an article headed, The settlement between the zemindar and the tenant, the *Grámbártá Prákáshiká*, of the 9th July, writes:—The Lieutenant-Governor is endeavouring, with head and heart, to find out means to put a stop to agrarian risings; but the probable result of his endeavours is not yet certainly known. It is not a groundless suspicion, that His Honor may be blinded by the reasoning of the British Indian Association. In his late Minute on the Rent Law, he has stated that a definite portion of the produce of the land ought to be received by the zemindar, and the remainder by the ryot. But this will very probably end in the ruin of the latter. Though His Honor has minutely discussed nearly every point of this subject, yet he seems to have failed to observe the very palpable fact, that the market price and the produce of the land are not the same every year, and that when the crop is destroyed by any unforeseen occurrence, the zemindar does not suffer the loss. He realizes his dues from the ryot by every means. Under such circumstances, if greater profit were not on the side of the tenant, how would he be able to compensate his loss? What could be more strange than the fact that, when there is any profit, the zemindar may enhance the rent; but when there is a loss he is not to bear any portion of it, that is, he need not diminish the rent? In fact, it is not so easy to diminish the rent as to enhance it. In such a state of things, there is no possibility of bringing to an end the dispute between the zemindar and the tenant, unless there be a permanent settlement between them. The Lieutenant-Governor should discover means by which the zemindar might be obliged to make such a settlement with the ryot.

GRAMBARTA
PRAKASHIKA,
July 9th, 1876.

20. In one of its editorial notes, the *Howrah Hitakari*, of the 9th July, asks the Calcutta Municipality to raise a roof on the walls already built round the Burning Ghât, at Calcutta, belonging to the late Kassi Nath Mitter, for the convenience of people who resort thither to burn their dead.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
July 9th, 1876.

21. The same paper, in another note, writes that the number of deaths has of late increased to a great extent in Howrah; and hence asks the local municipality to take measures to remove the nuisances, which occasion this increase.

HOWRAH HITAKARI.

22. In continuation of the article on Tirhoot noticed in paragraph 23 of our last report, the *Sahachar*, of the 10th July, writes the following:—For

SAHACHAR,
July 10th, 1876.

some years past the Durbhunga estate has been under the management of the Government Court of Wards ; and officers on high salaries of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500 a month are appointed to it. The arrangement is splendid ; and entails, I think, more than double the expenditure incurred by Government in the administration of a district. Let us now describe it. There is a general manager, and under him there are about four or five assistants. Each assistant has tehsildars and a full complement of omlahs allowed him. The tehsildars, with their omlah, go into the interior and collect the rents and remit the money to the treasury at the Sudder Station. The estate is managed on this system. But its internal affairs, and the way in which the rent is collected, are extremely oppressive to the tenantry. It is a well-known fact, and almost axiomatic, that in native zemindaries, a great deal of oppression is practised in collecting the rents. The saying is very true here. The tehsildars are high officers on Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 a month. Their high position makes them objects of regard with the authorities, while they possess almost despotic power. They do as they please. First, they are always at places distant from where the authorities are, and indulge in the luxury of almost despotic power in the interior of the the zemindaree ; and there, any degree of arbitrariness on their part never comes to the notice of the authorities. Secondly, even if any matter be after considerable difficulty brought to the notice of the superior authorities, it does not meet with due attention ; and if the superior officer be somewhat lenient towards the faults of his subordinates, there is nothing to be gained from an exposure. The tenant may perish ; not a hair of the tehsildar's head is ever touched. So much for the tehsildar. Then there are his omlahs. The selfish and extortionate character of the omlah of native zemindars is of course well known. They serve their own interests to the best of their power, and fill their own coffers with money wrung from the life-blood of the ryots. They know neither mercy nor justice. Receiving a salary Rs. 5, they earn Rs. 100 a month. Whence does it come ? Of course from the tenantry. The ryot must pay the rent due to the zemindar ; then three times a month make presents to the tehsildar ; and then again almost daily serve the putwaree, and gratify his inordinate greed for money. He must do all this, otherwise his life will be threatened, he will be driven from his ancestral homestead, and made to see his wife and daughter outraged before his own eyes. Such are the doings of the subordinate omlahs of a native zemindaree establishment. Yet we had believed that no such thing could possibly exist where the British Government had power ; that those over whom high English officials were placed were all gentlemen, or they could not be where they are. But the state of things here, in Durbhunga, has rudely destroyed that belief. It is, however, to be said, in this connection, that the superintending officers here are not themselves gentlemen. It is not every Englishman who is entitled to that honor. The Sahibs, belonging to the Court of Wards here, are not gentlemen. For, otherwise, how could they have overlooked all this wrong perpetrated before their eyes ?

But what is the condition of the tenantry ? While the high officials, the tehsildars, and the putwaries all live in ease and comfort, possessing in the enjoyment of arbitrary power, and indulging in oppressions and extortions, the poor tenantry are the sufferers from one year's end to another. They have neither good times nor bad times. The failure of one season's crop will increase their sufferings, but a good outturn in the next will not necessarily remove them ; nay, the extortion of the zemindar will then be the greater. This is how the affairs of the Durbhunga estate are managed by the Court

of Wards: and how can such an arrangement produce anything but misery? There are, however, many other causes at work. The Court of Wards here follows a particular practice. They divide a zemindaree into several portions and lease them out in *thikká* tenures. Settlements of two or more pergunnahs are thus made and leased to outsiders at a fixed yearly rent. This done, the zemindar does not any longer attend to the condition of the tenantry; and is satisfied if only the fixed annual rent is regularly paid, no matter how the *thikkádár* treats the ryots, or collects the rents. Regarded from a financial point of view, the arrangement, of course, is not a bad one; for the zemindar gets the rents without being put to any expense for collection. But his duties do not end there. He should attend to the condition of the tenantry as well. This is, however, not done by the Court of Wards. Every year, as in a public auction, estates are let out to *thikkádárs*, while no notice is taken of the way in which they are managed. The only consequence of such an arrangement is to vest the *thikkádárs* with absolute power. These are a set of ignorant and unprincipled men, given to oppression, and inordinately avaricious. Some of them are natives whose profession it is thus to become temporary lessees; while the majority are indigo-planters, whose oppressions are too well known to need any description here. Another cause of the misery of the Tirhoot tenantry is to be found in the exceeding fertility of the soil, and its adaptability for indigo cultivation. A large portion of the best corn-producing land is taken up for this purpose. The indigo-industry is indeed highly lucrative; but then it is not the ryot's own; he is employed only as a day laborer, and is often obliged to work without any adequate remuneration from the planter, who is in most cases the zemindar as well as his employer. But is there no remedy? Perhaps none. Government has indeed established Courts of Justice for the good of the people. But their way is planted with so many obstacles that the poor cannot overcome them. Not to speak of the expense, there are other considerations which prevent them from going to law. It is almost impossible for natives to obtain justice in the local courts when the defendants are Englishmen. The planters, as well as the Judges, belong to the same nation, and are fast friends. While out on his tour in the interior, the Magistrate partakes of the hospitality of the planter. This strengthens their friendship, and makes the former anxious to protect the latter from all injury. If Government is really anxious to know the truth, let it make a thorough and sifting enquiry, and not be content with simply relying on the Magistrate. The latter course will, doubtless, produce bulky reports, but the truth will not be discovered; because the real truth might involve some planter friend in trouble, or expose the short-comings of some European officer of the Court of Wards.

23. The same paper observes in an editorial on the Presidency Magistrates' Bill:—Government does what it is once determined to do, in spite of the protestations of the public. This has been done, in the case of the Presidency Magistrates' Bill, which was objected to by the public on the ground that there was no need for it, unless it were to reduce the work of the High Court, and thus deny the people all hope of justice. Amendments have, indeed, been made in the Bill since it was first published, but of what use are these when the Bill itself is not needed. It is open to two great objections—(1) it provides for appeals, on the part of Government, within a specified time, when the judgment of the Magistrate acquits an accused. This is unjust; and, as evincing a vindictive spirit, is unworthy

SAHACHAR,
July 10th, 1876.

of Government. (2) If the Bill becomes law, the system of trial by jury will, in a manner, be abolished from the Presidency towns. This will be a real evil.

SOMA PRAKASH,
July 10th, 1876.

24. The *Soma Prakásh*, of the 10th July, remarks, with gratification, that the amendments made by the Select Committee in the Presidency Magistrates' Bill are an improvement; though it is to be regretted that the committee have not done anything to remove the restrictions that have been placed on the system of trial by jury, a privilege which is very important to the liberty of the subjects, and highly prized by them.

SOMA PRAKASH.

25. In continuation of the article on "A permanent settlement with the ryots" noticed in paragraph 25 of our last report, the same paper writes the following:—

Sir Richard Temple's proposal for determining the relation between landlord and tenant is far from practicable. It is moreover likely to be very injurious to the tenant. It is he who cultivates the land at his expense, and with the sweat of his brow grows the crops; and why should the zemindar have a share in the increased produce? He neither does nor will do anything towards this end. He is only the capitalist, and all that he is entitled to receive is interest in the shape of rents. But why should the rate of rent increase from year to year? The rise in the value of produce is mainly brought about by the expense and labor of the ryot, and the sound administration of the country by Government and the consequent development of commerce. The zemindar has no right to what is brought about by the agency of the ryot. It is unbearable, that, while one should by his efforts and expense grow the crops, another, who had been lolling at ease perfectly unconcerned, should now come forward and claim a share. Nor has he any right to the increased value of the produce, in so far as it is brought about by the second cause. In justice, Government is entitled to it; though it does not advance any claims. It must, of course, be admitted, that in this "unearned increment," neither the landlord nor the tenant has any hand. It is, therefore, proposed to divide it equally between them. We do not, however, approve of this proposal. In our opinion, society would be benefited if it were given to the tenant. In fact, the money, to which neither the landlord nor the tenant has any right, should be expended always, with the good of society in view. The ryot does infinitely more good to society by his labors in growing the food of the people than the rich man who buys estates for his own profits. The expenses of the ryot in carrying out his agricultural pursuits are also daily increasing. We would, therefore, urge on Government the desirability of granting this sum to the voiceless tenantry rather than to the indolent and luxurious zemindars. It is greatly desirable to see a middle-class thus spring up by means of this additional source of income.

All persons agree in admitting that there is need of amending the rent law. The question is, how to amend it for the good of the country? In our opinion there should be a permanent settlement between the zemindars and the ryots similar to that which exists between Government and the zemindars. This naturally gives rise to another question: What should be the rent rate? According to some, the old pergunnah rate ought to be revived. This scheme also is almost unpracticable. Since the passing of Act X of 1859, the zemindars have been enhancing the rents in various ways. This accounts for the fact of different rates prevailing even in the same pergunnah. In some pergunnahs, again, the old rate has been at once

abolished. In such circumstances, it would be better to look out for some other means than this. We would ask Government to determine the rate per beegha, after ascertaining the value of the total produce of a pergunnah. Deducting from the value thus obtained the expense of the ryot, the remainder should be divided between the landlord and tenant in the proportion of six and ten annas, and this rate should be made permanent. And as, on the one hand, there will be an increase in the value of the produce, so on the other, the value of the ryot's labor will be higher, and the expenses of agriculture greater. A desire to benefit the tenantry would see nothing objectionable in such an arrangement. To introduce a *mourusee* settlement all at once might lead to great confusion. It is therefore desirable that occupancy tenants of a long standing only should be allowed the benefit of the arrangement proposed. Steps also should, however, be taken to admit the present tenants-at-will into this privileged class at some future day. The ryots will thus conceive an interest in the land they cultivate, and the impetus thus given to agriculture will raise the status of millions of poverty-stricken tenantry. It does not behove a civilized Government to perpetuate the misery of numberless millions of men only for the sake of a few zemindars. The latter also will be benefited by this arrangement. The knowledge that the income of their estates is not likely to increase any more will act as an incentive to this indolent and luxurious class of men. Government has conferred a great boon on the zemindars by the permanent settlement of the land. It should show the same consideration towards the helpless tenants. Sir Richard Temple is earnestly besought to attend to this matter.

26. An anonymous correspondent, writing to the *Urdu Guide* from Dacca, under date the 2nd of July, gives the following news of that place and the surrounding country. Rain has fallen during the past two days and afforded much relief to the inhabitants of Dacca; as it had entirely ceased for the whole week previous, and gave rise to much sickness. The attendance of Muhammadans at Dacca is now much larger. The Madrasah too is thriving, and will no doubt acquire much fame for itself, as already evidenced by the result of the half-yearly examination which was recently held. It is much to be regretted, however, that the staff of teachers is very poor in comparison to the students. Intelligence comes from *Comillah*, that much rain has fallen there, and it is feared that a similar disaster may befall the place as last year; when, by reason of the sudden rush of the mountain torrents, the rivers overflowed their banks and caused much injury to the existing crop. The rivers in fact are quite full to overflowing already; and, although it is but the commencement of the rainy season, the country presents an appearance similar to that when the rains are in full strength. The people of Dacca are much pleased with the appointment of Báboo Sarmánanda Dás as second Moonsif, as he is known to be a good officer: at the same time, they are quite dissatisfied with the promotion of the former second moonsif Gopál Báboo to the first grade, because his mediocre abilities do no entitle him to such advancement. Apart from this fact, both clients and suitors experience much trouble at his hands, and the *vakíls* too are not satisfied with him: so that there is no remedy left but silent patience.

URDU GUIDE,
July 8th, 1876.

27. The *Behár Bandhu* learns that Government has again called for the opinions of the Magistrates, as to whether Urdu should be allowed to continue in the curriculum of the Education Department in this province. This struggle between Urdu and Hindi seems to be like a game of dice, at which the latter has for the present proved victorious: the eventual throw has yet, however, to be made, and till then the question will remain in

BEHAR BANDHU,
July 12th, 1876.

uncertainty. Government should of itself look closely into and examine the merits and demerits of both the above languages; and after it has satisfied itself, no time should be lost in adopting once, and for all, the language decided upon. On the other hand, it does not become a Government to be repeatedly calling for opinions on one subject and taking action by fits and starts.

BEHAR BANDHU.

28. This paper, in deploring the absence among the nobility and youth of Behár, of a taste for hunting in the field and athletic sports, remarks that, that country has a prospect of prosperity and advancement, where vigor, valor, and wisdom are conjointly on the increase, leading necessarily to a proportionate distaste for sensual pleasures. Behár seems to be reposing itself at present in this matter, whilst in Bengal, the papers there are constantly publishing reports of the hunting skill and prowess of several Bengali Báboos; and such a publication of their deeds of valour, urges them to greater bravery and farther exploits; whilst the unmarried damsels of their caste are anxiously looking out to secure such brave and noble men for their husbands. Alas! such is not the case in this province! for the youth here waste their time in such unmanly sports as kite-flying, witnessing, and participating in ram, partridge, and bird fights, but not in the hunt or chase. We have the Rájah of Maksudpore, who is fond of hunting, but he lacks learning and knowledge; and such a deficiency in one of his standing is a very serious fault. Wisdom and bravery must both be combined to be of use.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 15th July 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending the
15th July 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Bhárat Shramjibí" ..	Baráhanagar ...	Monthly ...	Bysakh, 1283 B. S.
2	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kákinia, Rungpore ...	Weekly ...	7th June 1876.
3	"Sáptábhik Samáchar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	27th ditto, and 4th July.
4	"Suhrid" ...	Muktágáchá, Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	4th July 1876.
5	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Bauleah, Rájshahye ...	Ditto ...	5th ditto.
6	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
7	"Amrita Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	6th ditto.
8	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
9	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Patriká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	7th ditto.
11	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
12	"Hindu Hitoishini" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	8th ditto.
13	"Howrah Hitakarí" ...	Bethar, Howrah ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca ...	Ditto ...	9th ditto.
15	"Soma Prakásh" ...	Bhowanipore ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
16	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	10th ditto.
17	"Sulabha Samáchar" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	11th ditto.
18	"Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Ditto ...	Bi-Weekly ...	10th ditto.
19	"Sambád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	Daily ...	10th to 14th July 1876.
20	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	12th July 1876.
21	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu) ...	Ditto ...	Weekly ...	8th ditto.
22	"Behár Bandhu" (in Hindi) ...	Bankipore, Patna ...	Ditto ...	12th ditto.
23	"Jám-Jehán-numá" (in Persian) ...	Calcutta ...	Ditto ...	14th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.